

middle TOWN NEWS letter

July 2020



Food Scraps Ban

Beginning on July 1, 2020, Vermont state law bans disposal of food scraps in the trash or landfills. Food scraps include pre- and post-consumer food waste that is derived from processing. The law also bans discarding of food that can be used through one of the following options: food donation for people in need, animal feed, composting, or anaerobic digestion.

Why? Keeping food scraps out of the trash saves landfill space and reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Reducing food waste saves resources. Since 2012 when the law began to be phased in, food waste collection has nearly tripled.

What do I do with my food scraps if I can't compost at home? Food scraps can be separated into buckets or bins and emptied into the Food Scrap bin at Fort Dumpster. If you have questions about the process, ask Glen; he'll be happy to offer guidance. Residents who pay a trash hauler should verify that their hauler provides food scrap collection.

For more information, including how to compost at home, go to <http://rutlandcountyswac.org/composting/>.

United States 2020 Census

- You count! Everyone counts!
- It's about fair representation & redistricting.
- It's about \$675 billion.
- Your privacy is protected.
- It takes 10 minutes of your time.

Making sure **every person in Vermont is counted during this 2020 Census matters a lot**. Vermont receives around \$2.5 billion dollars in Census-guided federal funds, which works out to about \$3,963 per person, IF WE PARTICIPATE! **A complete count** is vital to securing dollars for our state, our county, and our town. So far, Middletown Springs has just over a 55% response rate. We can do better than that! It takes 10 minutes, no hard questions, completely confidential.

The past decades' censuses were conducted by people hired by the Federal government to go door-to-door. This year, it's up to you to go online at my2020census.gov; to do it by phone (844-330-2020); or to return the questionnaire you got in the mail.

It is interesting to follow the census response rate across Vermont. You can do this by county and by town, at 2020.mapvt.com/.

Ahoy Mates!

Set sail for the Mystery Island Kid's Camp!

When?? July 20 - 24, 9 am - 12 noon.

Where? Middletown Springs Community Church.

There will be treasure hunts, games, music, crafts, science experiments, and so much more!! For more information or to register visit our website, <http://middletownspringscommunitychurch.org/>, or call Rita at 235-2436.

Pie Safe Raffle

Congratulations to Jordan Gonda, the winner of our Pie Chest Raffle! Thanks to everyone who purchased tickets and to Matt and Trish Peschl for donating such a beautifully crafted piece to help us support the Library.

Also, thank you to everyone for their plant donations to and purchases at our Annual Spring Plant Sale! It was a successful event and will help us help the Library.

Thanks, Ashley Fioretti

President of the Friends of the Library

A Note from the Town Treasurer

Property Tax Bills for the new fiscal year 2020/2021 are expected to be delivered to you in August.

SAVE YOUR BILL. You will not be provided with another. You will need this bill in April 2021 when you file your income taxes and homestead

declaration. Or, you may need it during the year if you refinance.

First quarterly tax payments for the new cycle are due **on or before September 15, 2020**.

Homestead "Rebates": The State of Vermont will download to Middletown Springs a list of Homestead property tax reductions that will automatically be applied to your tax bill, if you are eligible. And, if eligible, you will receive a letter from the State of Vermont indicating the amount of your reduction.

Please note that the Town does NOT determine the amount, if any, of this reduction. This is a State function. Please contact the State if you have any questions: <http://www.tax.vermont.gov> or (802) 828-2865.

IMPORTANT: Update Your Address

If your mailing address has changed or needs updating, please contact Sally Achey, Lister Chair, as soon as possible. Address adjustments are completed through the Grand List system. The Grand List is maintained by the Listers.

Sally will update your address so that your tax bill (which originates in the Grand List system) is mailed to the correct address. Please contact Sally at mtslister@vermontel.net.

MSVFD News

The Middletown Springs Fire Department has an update for the community for the first half of 2020. The entire update can be read here [<https://bit.ly/2BFnMyp>]. Some highlights include:

- MSVFD has taken part in several mutual aid trainings. There are new precautions and procedures that have been implemented because of Coronavirus.
- MSVFD celebrated the graduating seniors with their own fire truck parade.
- The steel tank on the Tanker 532 had split. Ingenuity and in-house labor went into the repair and it was completed for significantly less than the cost of replacement.
- MSVFD responded to various fires in the last few months which needed different equipment to accomplish the job. We have been questioned in the past why we need various trucks, and these fires make good examples.
- While Tanker 532 was out of service waiting for the new tank, MSVFD responded to the barn fire on Fitzgerald Road. Fortunately, the mutual aid plan

for tankers worked flawlessly. Just as our Engine 531 was getting low on water, Poultney Fire arrived with their tanker.

- The following day, our mini pumper, Attack 533, responded to a forest fire in Wells. Attack 533 was the main apparatus on scene. Small 4-wheel-drive vehicles are necessary on scenes that are off road, with rough terrain.
- On May 16, MSVFD responded to a structure fire off Sawmill Hill, in Middletown Springs. The structure could only be reached by 4-wheel-drive vehicles. Our mini pumper, Attack 533, was our only apparatus that could make it to the scene.
- The old ladder truck, the 1966 Maxim ladder truck, which was donated by Rock Hall, MD, has returned to its home in Rock Hall, MD.
- Regarding the firehouse project, the Select Board is looking into various alternatives, the MSVFD membership and Board of Trustees are also looking into alternative plans. Due to the Coronavirus, all plans will be on hold until our community and nation are financially stable.
- Social distancing has certainly changed our community in some ways, but we would like everyone to know that we are still here for whatever you may need. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us. Take care and stay healthy.

Library News

The Library is currently open on Tuesdays (2 pm - 7 pm) for walk-in service, masks required and one household at a time. On Wednesdays (1 pm – 5 pm) and Fridays (11 am – 3 pm), or by appointment, no-contact service is available. Call 235-2435 or email your requests. We will call you when your order is ready for pickup. Details are available on the Library's website (middletownspringslibrary.org). Don't know what you want? Tell us what you like and we will pick out a few things for you to sample. Our track record has been surprisingly good so far.

Book Returns & Due Dates: All items that have been in circulation while the Library building was closed are now due. There are no fees, fines, or penalties. When items are returned, they are quarantined for no less than 72 hours before being checked back in and shelved.

NEW Books: While the Library building was closed, the company where we purchase our book orders was operating at a limited capacity. In the last month, we have received four months' worth of new

books. Too many to list here, so go to <https://bit.ly/2Dobzys> if you would like to see the full list.

Inter-Library Loans: Inter-Library Loan (ILL) allows patrons of MSPL to have access to the collections in all Vermont Libraries. Most items arrive within 7 to 10 days. Curious about what's available? Take a look at the [CLOVER Catalog](#). Though you will not be able to log in to place requests directly, [email](#) or call the Library and we will do it for you.

Book Sale: The Book Sale has been postponed. We hope to be able to hold it in the fall. Please hold off on delivering all donations for the Book Sale. We are not equipped to handle them at this time.

State Parks & State Historic Sites: Borrow the Library's pass for a day of adventure and get free entry for up to eight people in one car at any of the Vermont State Parks or Historic Sites, <https://www.vtstateparks.com/>, <http://historic-sites.vermont.gov/>

Summer Hybrid Story Time

As with so many things, our summer programming this year will look a little different. Teacher Heather arrived several weeks ago. She is very excited to share some of her favorite folk and fairy tales with you. Our weekly Story Times will be virtual, uploaded to YouTube on Tuesday mornings. "Take & Make" bags of crafts or activities that relate to the stories will be available to pick up, at your leisure, from outside the Library door.

Each week, our Story Time video will be available on Tuesday by 9 am, with the Take & Make bags available immediately following and for the rest of the week. It is important to sign up in advance, by the Wednesday of the previous week, so we know how many kits to prepare.

The kits will be packaged and quarantined for at least 72 hours before they are set out for pickup. Your child's name will be on their bag; please touch only your own child's bag when you come to pick it up. The bags will be in a covered bin on the Library's porch for a no-contact pickup.

If your child(ren) would like to be a part of our program, please fill out the registration form online: <https://forms.gle/AwysbKnHjZ4U5wCe7>. If you have questions or would like to register directly, please contact Kimberly at the Library middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com, 235-2435.

To see prior weeks' stories, go to the Library's YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpvayV4w-xWfBSwI2fuG8rQ>.

COVID-19 Updates

For the most current information and guidance on COVID-19 in Vermont, visit the website of the Vermont Department of Health at <https://www.health-vermont.gov/response/coronavirus-covid-19>, or the Middletown Springs website at <http://middletownsprings.vt.gov/emergency-safety/disaster-emergency-planning/>.



To the Town of Middletown Springs:

I want to thank you so much for allowing my son to have school choice. Because of this, he was able to attend the school that best met his needs and, consequently, grew into a fine young man. This, along with our supportive, safe, and wholesome community, help me to impart the values I had hoped would be instilled in him in his childhood.

We have rented here for six years; and now that he has graduated high school, I am an "empty-nester." Now that my children are grown, I will be able to live wherever I want. It is my desire to purchase a home in Middletown Springs and become a taxpayer myself and support all of the educational and community programs this town has to offer.

So, thank you so much,

A Middletown Springs Resident

Calendar of Events

In response to Governor Phil Scott's order to minimize gatherings, the Middletown Springs Selectboard has encouraged all Town boards and committees to meet only for urgent decisions. This may mean that some regularly scheduled meetings are cancelled or postponed, while others are held at their normal time and place but with electronic participation rather than in-person attendance. Please check with the following people to see whether a meeting will be held at its usual time and place, and the preferred method for remote participation.

Regular Meeting Schedule & Chair or Contact Person

Conservation Commission	2 nd Thurs	Elizabeth Cooper
Fire Dept. Training	Every Tues	Joe Castle
First Response	3 rd Sun	Carl Haynes
Friends for Education (FFE)	2 nd Wed	Ashley Fioretti
Friends of the Library (FOL)	2 nd Tues	Ashley Fioretti
Library Trustees	4 th Wed	Kristal Hier
Planning Commission	1 st Mon	Peter Blekis
Selectboard	2 nd & 4 th Thurs	Terry Redfield
Town Facilities Planning	1 st & 3 rd Thurs	Terry Redfield
Wells Springs School Board	1 st Wed	Clarence Haynes

When public meetings do occur, meeting organizers must set up the meeting space so that the recommended six feet of distance is maintained between participants.

The Vermont Secretary of State has updated, temporary guidelines for boards & committees to comply with **Vermont Open Meeting Laws**. You can find more information at <https://sos.vermont.gov/secretary-s-desk/commentary/updated-covid-19-impacts-and-considerations-for-open-meeting-law/>.

Town Newsletter

Lots of information in a snippet & list format, plus a Calendar of Events. No ads, articles, or minutes.

This supplements and enhances the Town website & Front Porch Forum (FPF) and will serve the needs of those who don't regularly use computers.

Digital copies are available as a PDF. The PDF is posted to FPF or the Town website or is sent free via email to those who sign up. It is also available in hard copy, delivered by USPS, to those who subscribe for \$6 a year postage. Copies are posted at the Town Office, Grant's Village Store, and the Library.

Have questions? Call 235-2435, or email: middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com to reach Kimberly and Melissa at the Library.

Submit News & Events to:

Middletown Springs Public Library
middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com
PO Box 1206
Middletown Springs, VT 05757

Deadline: 25th of the month

Front Porch Forum

Join Front Porch Forum to know what is happening between issues of the middleTOWN NEWSletter. It's free. It's local. And it's friendly. Check it out at <https://frontporchforum.com/>.